DC BLACK LABEL

SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN™
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK TWO

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BOOK TWO

JUST TELL ME ONE THING BEFORE WE SEND YEH AWAY, ***THIEF.***
THAT HOUSE IS A FORTRESS. HOW'D YOU GET IN WITHOUT CALLING ATTENTION FROM THE GUARD?
AND HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE THIS ***RING*** WAS HIDDEN?
I GREW UP IN THAT HOUSE.
HA! THAT HOUSE WAS BUILT BY ONE OF THE GREATEST FAMILIES IN ALL OF LONDON.
BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THEY DIED IN THE PLAGUE.
SO THAT EITHER MAKES YOU A LIAR OR A ***BASTARD.***
KLINK
OR A ***GHOST.***
GUARD, YOU'RE COMING AS WELL. TO GIVE TESTIMONY.
CLAK
CLAK CLAK

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK TWO

Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers
Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors
AndWorld Design: Letters

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

ARE YOU A GHOST, ***EDMOND WAYNE?***
OR ARE YOU AN OUTCAST?
THE LAST OF A NOBLE BLOODLINE WHO TRIED TO FLEE HIS DESTINY?
I NEVER TOLD YOU MY FIRST NAME.
TELL ME-- DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ***GOD HAS A PLAN*** FOR EACH OF US?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD.
WELL, I DO. AND I DON'T BELIEVE THIS WAS HIS PATH FOR YOU. I THINK YOU'RE ***MEANT FOR SOMETHING GREATER.***
YOU'RE NOT A GUARD.
NO, I'M A MESSENGER. ***A PRIEST.*** AND I OFFER YOU A CHOICE, BUT YOU MUST DECIDE QUICKLY.
YOU CAN ACCEPT YOUR CURRENT FATE, ROTTING INSIDE THE HELL OF NEWGATE HERE IN LONDON. OR YOU CAN ACCEPT THAT GOD HAS OTHER PLANS FOR YOU...
...BY COMING WITH ME.
FINE, I ACCEPT GOD! WHATEVER GETS ME OUT OF ***PRISON--***
GOOD.
KLAK
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
GOD'S WILL.

SHLING
BOOM
GOOD LORD!
EDMOND, GET THE REINS!
THERE ARE MORE HEADING TOWARD US!
STEER INTO THEM.
WHAT?!
HAVE NO FEAR, LORD WAYNE.
TWIP.

THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
SHUKK
CHRIST-- WHAT KIND OF PRIEST ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS BAKKAR.
AND I'LL ASK THAT YOU NEVER AGAIN TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
A PLACE CALLED GOTHAM VALLEY.
IN THE NEW WORLD, WHERE YOUR INHERITANCE AWAITS.
Six men dead.

While they didn't die by my hand, they died for my freedom. And the guilt weighs heavily on my soul. For I've never taken a life, nor do I ever intend to.
The olive-skinned priest seems undaunted—no doubt he's taken many lives. But he claims to be driven by a higher purpose, ordained by God.
Bakkar hails from the Beqaa Valley, a place deep in the Ottoman where his family traded in wine.
I know of a long tradition of warrior-priests from that part of Persia, but the Crusades have long ended.
Bakkar claims the Templars never disappeared from the Holy Land—they just split into smaller factions. Like the Order of St. Dumas, which he serves.
Bakkar was sent to the New World to spread the word of God to the colonists.
Ever the brave warrior, he chose to settle in the place that needed him the most.
Gotham Village is a place of sin, and a haven for smugglers and pirates. Controlled by a corrupt general who stole the land from its rightful owners.
His name is Lafayette Arkham, but villagers know him as Laffy.
Supposedly he's a vampire—a demon who feeds on the blood of small children.
I don't believe in such stories. But Bakkar does.
GENERAL Lafayette Arkham
His quest is to cleanse Gotham of this demonic infestation.
TOMORROW WE BEGIN YOUR TRAINING.

All he needs is an heir of the family who has legal claim to the valley...
...someone whom the British would be forced to recognize as Gotham's rightful lord...
...someone who would force Arkham out...
...someone to end the illegal trade...
...someone brave enough to help him bring peace to the innocent people of Gotham.
WIFF
All Bakkar needs...

...is a Wayne.
Gotham Valley is all my family has left.
So this is where we make our stand.

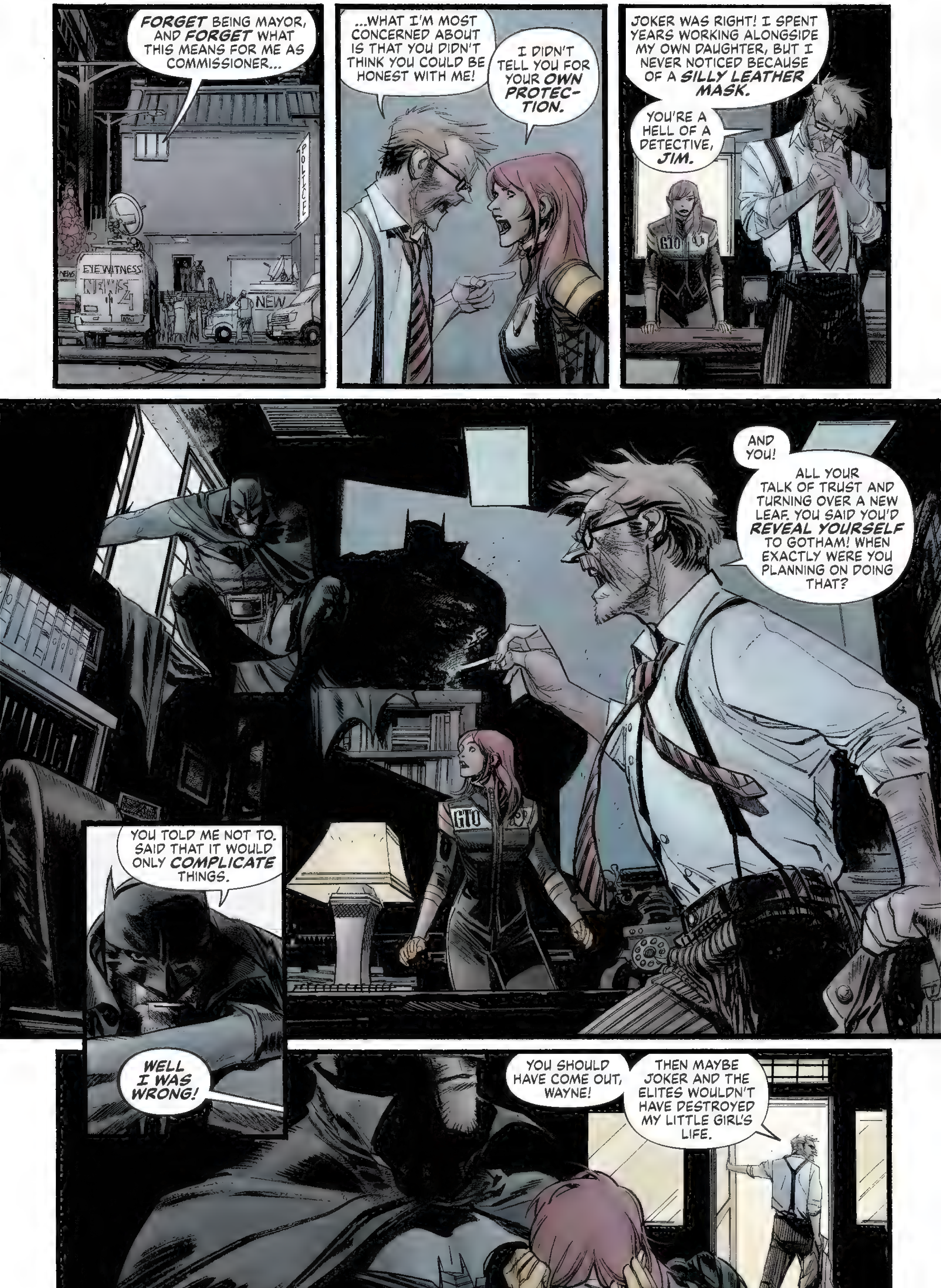
However, Bakkar's help comes at a heavy price... half of Gotham.
This might not be something I'm willing to grant...
SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, MR. WAYNE.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.
IT'S IMPORTANT, MR. WAYNE. I'M HERE ABOUT YOUR **BAT PROBLEM.**
...
LET HER IN.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MISS...
YOU AND THE POLICE CAN LAY OFF MY CLIENTS, MR. WAYNE. OUR MUTUAL FRIEND **THE JOKER** TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTAND--
WHO ARE YOU?
THIS WILL GO A LOT QUICKER IF YOU STOP PLAYING STUPID AND JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT RIGHT NOW, I KNOW MORE ABOUT BRUCE WAYNE THAN YOU DO.
MY NAME IS **RUTH,** AND I CREATED THE BATMAN DEVASTATION FUND. I'M ALSO THE FINANCIAL HANDLER FOR SOME OF GOTHAM'S WEALTHIER CITIZENS--THE PEOPLE NAPIER CALLED **"THE ELITES."**
AND I'M HERE TO POINT OUT THAT IT'S IN **BOTH OUR INTERESTS** FOR YOU TO MAKE THE NAPIER INITIATIVE GO AWAY.
HOW ABOUT THIS INSTEAD--YOU GIVE ME A LIST OF YOUR CLIENTS, AND I WON'T **THROW YOU INTO ARKHAM.**
SECRECY IS A TOP PRIORITY IN MY LINE OF WORK. YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHO MY CLIENTS ARE-- IN FACT, SOME OF THEM **DON'T EVEN KNOW** THEY'RE CLIENTS.
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.

YOU'RE TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME.
NO, I'M JUST HERE TO TELL YOU THE *FACTS.*
THERE'S A *RUMOR* GOING AROUND THAT YOU'RE CONSIDERING TELLING GOTHAM THE *TRUTH* ABOUT BATMAN.
WELL, IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT THIS THROUGH, AND THAT IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF I EXPLAINED THE *CONSEQUENCES* OF YOUR DOING THAT.
FIRST, THE STOCK IN YOUR COMPANIES WOULD PLUMMET AS THE FBI SEIZED YOUR ASSETS AND ARRESTED YOU FOR *TERRORISM.* THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS--NOT JUST YOUR EMPLOYEES, BUT WORKERS ALL OVER THE CITY AS YOU SEND GOTHAM'S *ECONOMY* INTO A TAILSPIN, RESULTING IN EVEN MORE *CRIME AND POVERTY.*
THEN YOU'D LOSE YOUR ENTIRE *FORTUNE* AS YOU ACCUMULATED HUNDREDS OF ASSAULT CHARGES FROM DECADES OF VIGILANTISM. EVERYONE YOU EVER WORKED WITH WOULD BE CHARGED WITH AIDING AND ABETTING, INCLUDING THE *ENTIRE GCPD.*
YOU'D *BEG TO GO TO PRISON*--BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'D BE SAFE FROM THE DOZENS OF SUPER-CRIMINALS WHO WILL SEEK REVENGE.
IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE...
...IF YOU REALLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR GOTHAM, THEN YOU'LL CONTINUE BEING BATMAN AND FIGHTING CRIME--*LOW-LEVEL CRIME.* AND YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO *HELP THE ELITES* BY STOPPING THE NAPIER INITIATIVE.
W
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES TO EXPOSE YOU.
YOU SHOULD.
BECAUSE YOU WON'T SURVIVE THIS. AND NEITHER WILL DICK OR BARBARA...

"...OR ANYONE ELSE YOU'VE ROPED INTO YOUR CAUSE."
YOU ALL KNOW I'M NOT A POLITICIAN.
I'M JUST A BLUE-COLLAR KID WHO WANTED TO BE AN UNDERPAID COP.
I'M NOT GOOD AT **SPIN,** I DON'T LIKE **CAMERAS,** AND I HAVE **NO PATIENCE** FOR BULLSHIT.
SO I'M GOING TO BREAK THE RULES OF POLITICS AND BE HONEST WITH YOU...
INSIDER
LIVE
I. **HATED.** JACK. NAPIER.
KINSEY BLENDED WHISKEY
GOTHAM INSIDER
LIVE
JAZZ
BAR
UNLIKE THE VOTERS, I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF IGNORING ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS JOKER DID TO HIS VICTIMS.
AND I WAS **STUNNED** WHEN HE GOT ELECTED AS COUNCILMAN. SUDDENLY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE CITY I WAS LIVING IN-- I FELT BETRAYED.
AND FOR A LONG TIME I REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT JACK NAPIER WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON THAN THE JOKER. THAT BURIED INSIDE GOTHAM'S **WORST CRIMINAL** WAS GOTHAM'S **BEST CHANCE** AT MOVING FORWARD.
BUT I WAS WRONG.
LIVE
JACK NAPIER WAS NOT THE JOKER. AND WHILE HE WASN'T PERFECT, HE ***DID*** SHOW US HOW TO BE BETTER. AND THAT'S WHY WE CREATED THE ***NAPIER INITIATIVE.***
AS COMMISSIONER I ENDED POLICE CORRUPTION, ADDRESSED THE PROBLEMS IN PLACES LIKE BACKPORT, AND SUPPORTED PROGRAMS LIKE THE GTO. BUT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM ISN'T ON OUR STREETS, IT'S IN OUR ***IVORY TOWERS.***
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT. GIVE ME THE POWER TO STOP THE SO-CALLED ***ELITES.***
NOT AS YOUR COMMISSIONER, BUT ***AS YOUR MAYOR!***
TSSSSS
BWAHAHAHAHAHA!

MY BRAND OF COMEDY EMBRACES THE CLASSICS--SQUIRTING FLOWERS, WHOOPEE CUSHIONS, AND YO MAMA JOKES. MAYBE A LITTLE IMPROV.
IMPRESSIONS WERE NEVER REALLY MY THING--BUT HEY, I'M HAPPY TO GIVE IT A WHIRL...
MY NAME'S JIM GORDON, AND I'M RUNNING FOR MAYOR!
NEWS
PODIUM
NOT ONLY AM I AN INCOMPETENT POLICEMAN WHO ALLOWED BATMAN TO RUIN THIS CITY, I'M ALSO A CHEATING HUSBAND AND A TERRIBLE FATHER!
I'M TOO STUPID TO EVEN NOTICE THAT MY DAUGHTER...
WHAP
WHUD
GTO
...IS ACTUALLY BATGIRL.
BWAHAHAHAAH!
HOW WAS THAT? TOO ON THE NOSE?
"JOKER WAS RIGHT..."

...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WAYNE IS GOING TO COOPERATE. SO, MR. VALLEY, *YOU'RE PLAN B.*
AZRAEL.
AZRAEL...
...YOU MIND PULLING YOUR SWORD OUT OF MY MAHOGANY DESK?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR SCHEMES.
FOR ME, IT'S VERY SIMPLE...BRUCE'S FAMILY TOOK MY KINGDOM IN *COLD BLOOD,* AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* HOW I'M GOING TO TAKE IT BACK.
HOW?
MICHAEL IS A SNIPER. GABRIEL IS DEMOLITIONS. OUR SPECIALTY WAS DISRUPTING ENEMY NETWORKS BY REMOVING *KEY PLAYERS.*
I LOOK AT GOTHAM, AND I SEE A LOT OF *KEY PLAYERS.*
THEN IT SOUNDS LIKE WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THING.
BLOOD.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO *KILL* BATMAN--WE NEED YOU TO *BECOME BATMAN.*
OUR BATMAN.
IN EXCHANGE, WE'LL MAKE YOU VERY RICH. *LIKE A KING.*
I DON'T PLAN ON SURVIVING THIS.
YOU HAVE MORE TIME THAN YOU THINK, JEAN-PAUL. WE CAN GIVE YOU CANCER TREATMENTS YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO AFFORD OTHERWISE.
YOU COULD LIVE A FULL LIFE.
THIS ISN'T THE *MIDDLE AGES*--YOU WANT GOTHAM BACK, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT IN THE 21ST CENTURY. I'M YOUR BEST BET.
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED.


FORGET BEING MAYOR, AND FORGET WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ME AS COMMISSIONER...
POLICE
EYEWITNESS NEWS 4
NEWS
NEW
...WHAT I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IS THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD BE HONEST WITH ME!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION.
JOKER WAS RIGHT! I SPENT YEARS WORKING ALONGSIDE MY OWN DAUGHTER, BUT I NEVER NOTICED BECAUSE OF A SILLY LEATHER MASK.
YOU'RE A HELL OF A DETECTIVE, JIM.
GTO
AND YOU!
ALL YOUR TALK OF TRUST AND TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF. YOU SAID YOU'D REVEAL YOURSELF TO GOTHAM! WHEN EXACTLY WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING THAT?
GTO
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO. SAID THAT IT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE THINGS.
WELL I WAS WRONG!
YOU SHOULD HAVE COME OUT, WAYNE!
THEN MAYBE JOKER AND THE ELITES WOULDN'T HAVE DESTROYED MY LITTLE GIRL'S LIFE.

YOU KEEP FORGETTING...
..I'M THE ONLY ONE IN GOTHAM YOU CAN'T SNEAK UP ON.
GRRRRRR
BABIES-- SHOOSH.
JOKER'S IN CUSTODY. I NEED YOUR HELP INTERROGATING HIM.
I DON'T GIVE TWO SHITS ABOUT THE JOKER, BATS. YOU KNOW THAT.
WHAT ABOUT JACK NAPIER?
...
JACK'S GONE.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
I CAN'T GO DOWN THIS ROAD AGAIN. MY HEART CAN'T TAKE IT.
BESIDES, I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOU'RE PREGNANT?!
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.
"A LITTLE CONSPICUOUS, JP..."

...THE RED REALLY STANDS OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. GOD WILL PROTECT US.

WON'T HE PROTECT US BETTER IN *CAMOUFLAGE?*
THE FIRE AND THE COLORS ARE SYMBOLS OF *ST. DUMAS.* MY ANCESTORS JOINED *THE ORDER* YEARS AGO, AFTER THEY LOST CONTROL OF GOTHAM.
IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO ME IF YOU WORE THEM.
OF COURSE. I'D BE HONORED, JP.
MICHAEL-- YOU READY?
US
HE'S READY.
LOAD UP THE DOLPHIN.
TIME TO BREAK SOME STARCH.
HOLY SHIT--RUTH REALLY CAME THROUGH WITH THIS STUFF.

IN GOD WE TRUST
LIBERTY
COMPUTER--MATCH 1685 MAP WITH MODERN MAP.
GOTHAM
NONCOMPATIBLE RESERVOIR AND COAST LINES INCONSISTENT
GOTHAM VILLAGE
THE 1685 MAP MUST BE WRONG. SHOW THE LOCATION OF GOTHAM RESERVOIR.
GOTHAM
ARKHAM MANOR
GOTHAM VILLAGE
WHAT THE HELL?
ALERT—SECURITY BREACH. RESERVE FIREWALL—
IN THE BEGINNING, GOTHAM HAD TWO SONS.
THE BROTHERS WERE TO DIVIDE THE LAND AND LIVE IN PEACE. BUT THEN ONE SON ROSE AGAINST THE OTHER, LIKE CAIN AND ABEL.
GOD CURSED CAIN FOR WHAT HE'D DONE--JUST AS HE CURSED YOU. JUST AS HE CURSED ALL OF GOTHAM.
I AM VENGEANCE. I AM GOD'S WRATH. HERE TO BREAK THE CURSE, TO RISE UP AGAINST YOU AND DELIVER THIS LAND FROM EVIL.
AFTER THREE CENTURIES, THE HOUSE OF WAYNE WILL FINALLY BE RECTIFIED.

JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- EVERYTHING IN THE CAVE IS COMPLETELY NETWORKED. JUST SAY THE WORD.
AMIGA
BURY HIM.
TARGET HOSTILE
TAP
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
T.SHH
T.SHH
THOCK
THOCK
TAP
ENGAGE AFTERBURNER
FWOOOSH

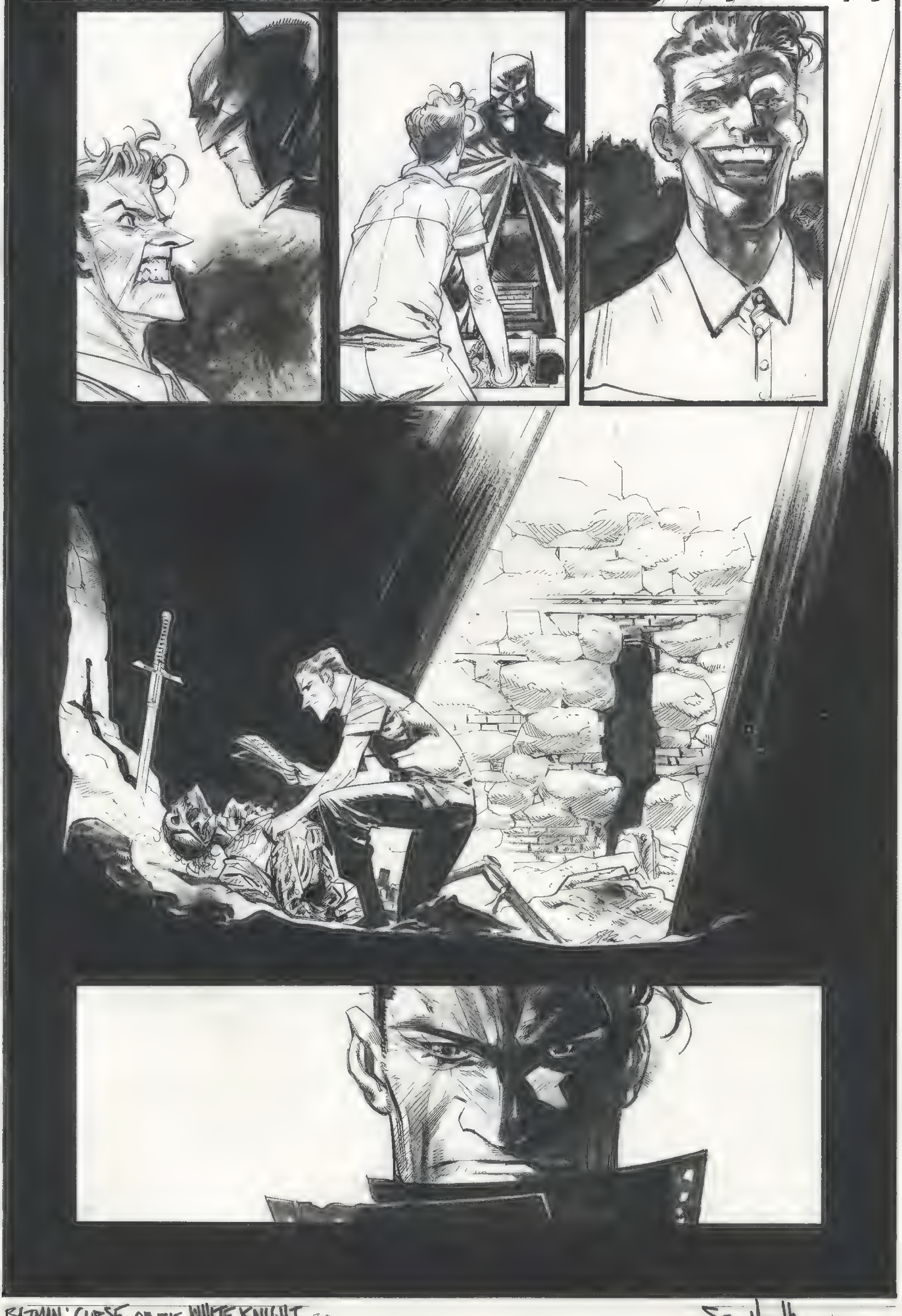
CRAK
IRRRRT
VROOOOOO
WHUDD
HRRRNGH
FZZRT

I'VE LOST CONTROL OF THE BATMOBILE! HE MUST HAVE DISCONNECTED THE MICROPROCESSOR.
I'VE SET THE CHARGES IN THE MANSION.
MOVE OUT!
FWOOSH
IT'S TOO LATE, **BRUCE.**
THIS WAS GOD'S WILL--
CRUNCH
VROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
BOOM

BOOM

NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #3 by Sean Murphy



BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 3.9

Sean Murphy. 12.2018

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 3.1

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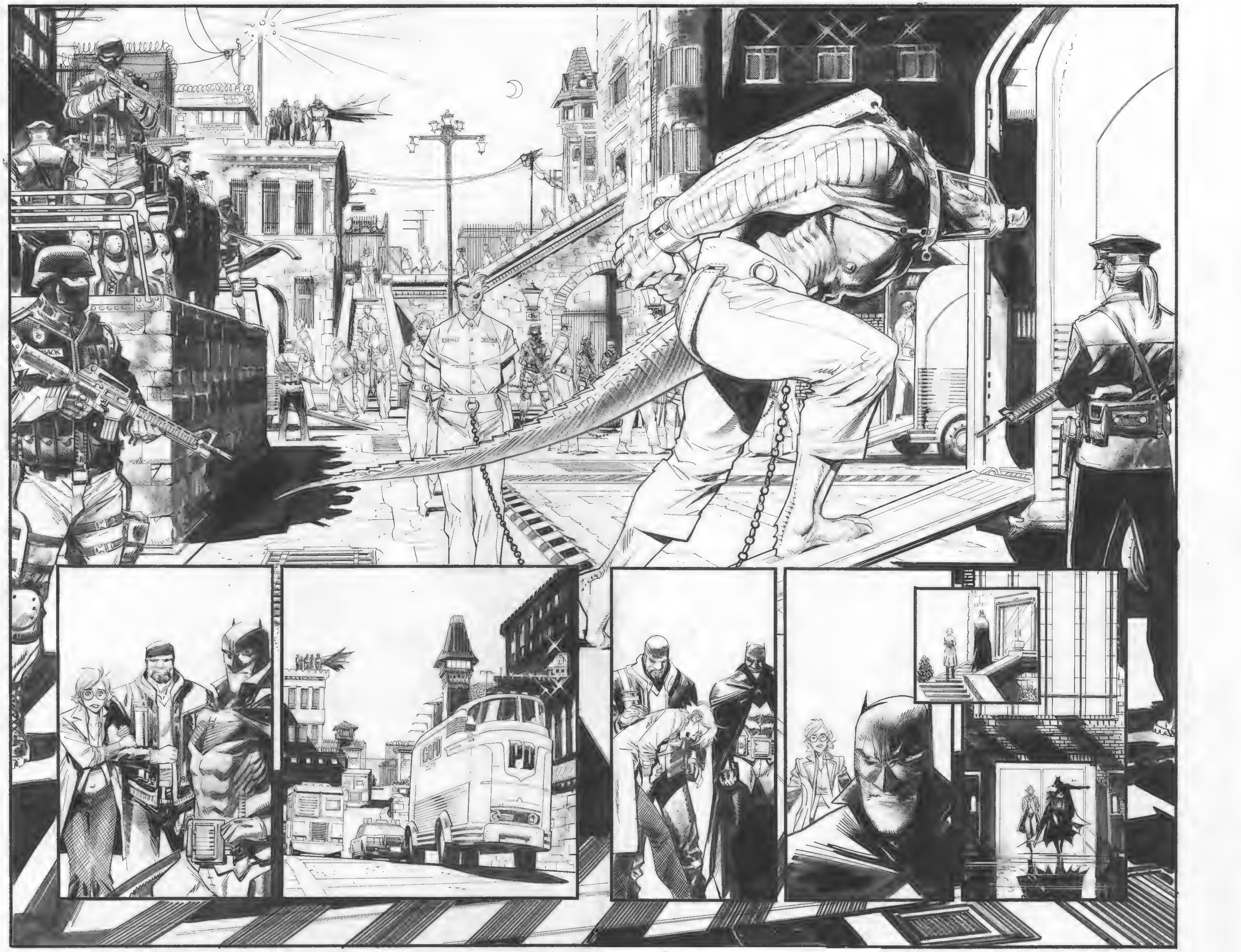
MACK
GCPD
PD

BATMAN: CURSE of the WHITE KNIGHT 3.12-13

SEAN MURPHY. 1.18.19

BATMAN

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

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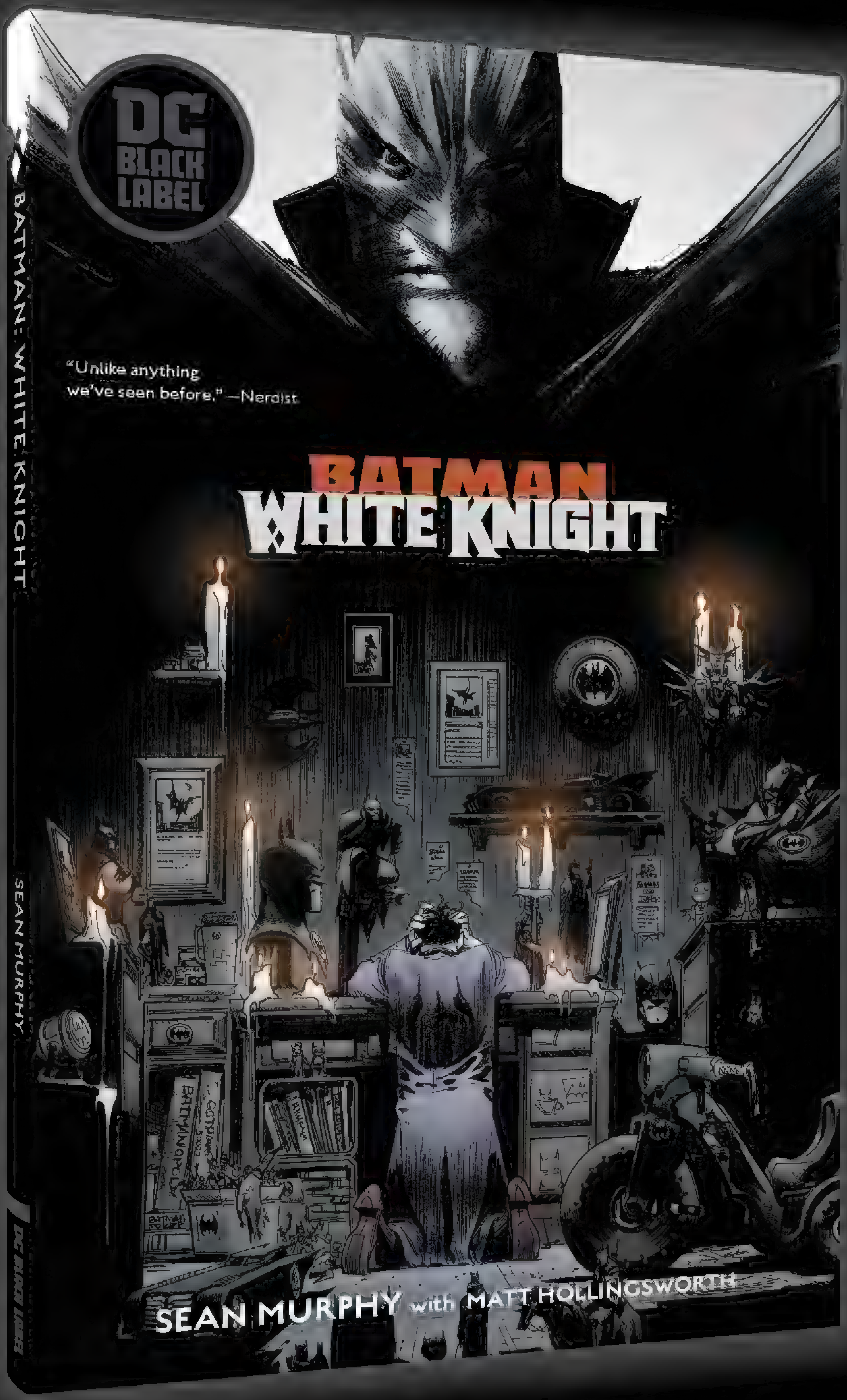
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"Unlike anything we've seen before." —Nerdist
BATMAN
WHITE KNIGHT
SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT
SEAN MURPHY

"Cinematic and graphic."
—A.V. Club

"Murphy was truly born to draw Batman."
—IGN

"A breakout hit."
—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow do you get your money's worth."
—Nerdist

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A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT, AND CENTURIES OF LIES...
THE JOKER IS BACK WITH A DEVASTATING SECRET TO SHAKE BATMAN AND GOTHAM TO THE CORE!
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